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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

Shipping To North Vietnam During January 1970

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February 1970

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SECRETForeword

Previous memoranda in this monthly series were entitled *Foreign Shipping To North Vietnam*. The series has been retitled *Shipping To North Vietnam* to reflect the inclusion of data, heretofore insignificant, on cargoes carried by North Vietnamese-flag ships.

All data are preliminary and subject to minor changes as additional information becomes available. These changes usually involve ship arrivals and cargoes from Communist China and, to a lesser extent, cargoes carried by ships of the Free World. Data for the preceding month and monthly averages presented in the tables have been adjusted to reflect corrections and additions. Weights of cargoes are expressed in metric tons. Because of rounding, components may not add to the totals shown.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
February 1970

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Shipping To North Vietnam
During January 1970

Highlights

Seaborne imports to North Vietnam fell slightly in January to 162,000 tons. Shipments from the USSR reached a new high of 113,600 tons, including a record amount of foodstuffs. Soviet plans reportedly call for a large increase in shipments of foodstuffs to North Vietnam in 1970. Imports from China in January were the lowest since October 1966 -- 17,200 tons. Seaborne exports dropped to 68,000 tons, mainly because of the absence of rice shipments and decreased cement shipments. Although overall deliveries of coal declined slightly, shipments to China were the highest in nearly a year.

There were no known deliveries of combat arms or ammunition in January. There were, however, very small deliveries of unidentified cargoes associated with the Chief Engineering Directorate (GIU)* and of sporting arms. In early February a Soviet ship delivered two unidentified crates [redacted]

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Trade carried on North Vietnamese-flag ships increased to 10,000 tons in January. There are reports that North Vietnam will add a large

** This Directorate handles Soviet military aid shipments abroad.*

Note: This memorandum was produced solely by CIA. It was prepared by the Office of Economic Research. Information on ship arrivals was coordinated with the Naval Intelligence Command.

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freighter to its fleet in the next few months. For the first time in four years a British-flag ship registered in the United Kingdom called at Haiphong. A voluntary understanding among British shipowners had served to keep such vessels out of the North Vietnamese trade. Port congestion at Haiphong continued to be negligible and turnaround times for departing foreign dry cargo ships decreased for the fifth consecutive month.

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Seaborne Imports and the Growth
of Deliveries from the USSR

1. North Vietnam's seaborne imports fell to about 162,000 tons in January but were still above the monthly average of 157,000 tons in 1969 (see Tables 1 and 2). Imports from the USSR in January continued their upward trend and reached a record high (113,600 tons) for the fourth consecutive month. Deliveries from Communist China, which have been depressed since mid-1969, dropped to 17,200 tons in January, their lowest level since October 1966.

2. The USSR apparently intends to continue to expand its volume of exports to North Vietnam. In late January a Soviet radio broadcast stated that deliveries by sea from Soviet Pacific ports would increase by 50% in 1970 and that 50,000 tons of food would be shipped to Haiphong and Cam Pha each month. This announcement implies that total shipments from Soviet Pacific ports will increase from 627,000 tons in 1969 to nearly 950,000 tons in 1970, and that foodstuffs will account for most of the increase, rising from 314,000 tons in 1969 to 600,000 tons in 1970.

3. Shipments of foodstuffs from the USSR -- virtually all of which are shipped out of Pacific ports -- have increased sharply each year since 1965. Foodstuff imports from China also increased sharply through 1968 but fell off in 1969 as is shown in the following tabulation:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Thousand Tons</u>	
	<u>From the USSR</u>	<u>From China</u>
1966	7	37
1967	166	217
1968	271	416
1969	321	377

4. Actual deliveries of foodstuffs from the USSR in January were 40,200 tons. Although this

SECRET

volume was below announced goals, it represented a record level of shipments from the USSR for the second consecutive month. Imports of foodstuffs from Communist China, which have remained below those from the USSR since September 1969, amounted to only 6,000 tons in January 1970.

5. Imports of fertilizer, 22,300 tons, were the highest since January 1968. Nearly 12,000 tons came from the USSR, mainly out of Black Sea ports. The USSR shipped all of the 38,300 tons of petroleum imported by North Vietnam. This volume was below the unusually high level of shipments during the last quarter of 1969, which averaged 45,000 tons per month, but was well above the monthly average for 1969. There are indications that North Vietnam wants to sustain a high level of petroleum imports -- on the order of 40,000 tons per month -- for at least the next two months.

Seaborne Exports

6. Seaborne exports decreased to 68,000 tons in January but were still higher than the monthly average for 1969 (see Tables 3 and 4). Most of this decline is attributable to the absence of rice shipments and to decreased cement shipments. Coal shipments, which normally account for more than half of the exports, declined only slightly -- to 45,600 tons. Deliveries of coal to Japan (21,500 tons) were only half the December level, whereas shipments to China (18,900 tons) were at their highest level since April 1969. Exports of apatite continued at a relatively high level, with 10,500 tons shipped to North Korea. This one month performance was almost equal to total apatite exports for all of 1969 and may foreshadow the best year for exports of this commodity since 1965.

Seaborne Foreign Trade on North Vietnamese-Flag Ships

7. Prior to December 1969 the tonnage of seaborne foreign trade carried on North Vietnamese ships was relatively insignificant. The volume reached 6,000 tons in December, however, and rose to nearly 10,000 tons in January 1970. North Vietnamese ships carried about 7,000 tons of exports to Hong Kong in January, including cement, lime powder,

SECRET

and fire brick for use there and handicraft goods for transshipment to Western Europe, Japan, and China. Domestic vessels also carried about 3,000 tons of imports, mostly rice from Communist China.

8. The volume of trade carried on North Vietnamese-flag ships could rise sharply in 1970. North Vietnam has been actively seeking to purchase used merchant ships from several countries. There are reports that an agreement has been reached to purchase, for about \$700,000, a British-flag ship, the *London Breeze* (10,620 deadweight tons), registered in Hong Kong. Acquisition of this ship, reportedly scheduled for delivery in the spring, would nearly double the capacity of the North Vietnamese fleet. The fleet currently consists of the following ships of more than 500 deadweight tons:

<u>Ship Name</u>	<u>Deadweight Tons</u>
<i>Viet Bao</i> (formerly the <i>Christo Botev</i> of Bulgarian registry)	3,952
<i>Ben Thuy</i>	2,520
<i>Cuu Long</i> (tanker)	1,620
<i>20 July</i>	1,700
<i>Huu Nghi</i>	908
<i>Hoa Binh</i>	908
<i>Thong Nhat</i>	840
<i>Total</i>	12,448

Military-Related Cargoes

9. There were no known seaborne deliveries of combat arms or ammunition in January. Soviet ships, however, did deliver about ten tons of cargo associated with the Chief Engineering Directorate (GIU) and about one ton of sporting arms.

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Unusual Free World Arrival

10. The first British-flag ship registered in the United Kingdom to visit North Vietnam since January 1966 arrived at Haiphong in January. The arrival of this ship, the *Vermont*, violated a "voluntary understanding" among UK shipowners which had effectively removed their vessels from the North Vietnamese trade. The ship delivered 2,000 tons of vehicles and general cargo from Constanta, Romania, after falsely declaring for London at the Bosphorus. Its London owners claim that the charter to Romania for a voyage to North Vietnam occurred as the result of an administrative error and have given assurances that there will be no repeat voyages to North Vietnam.

Ship Arrivals

11. Forty-seven ships arrived in North Vietnam from foreign ports during January -- 42 foreign-flag vessels and five North Vietnamese vessels (see Table 5). Soviet arrivals equaled the record of 27 reached in December; East European rose from one to five; Free World dropped from seven to four, the lowest number since March 1967*; and Chinese arrivals declined from seven to five. Although the average number of foreign dry cargo ships in Haiphong per day rose from 13 in December to 14 in January, congestion there remained negligible. Moreover, average layover times for departing foreign dry cargo ships decreased for the fifth consecutive month to 13 days, the lowest figure since April 1967 (see Tables 6 and 7). The first of three dockside portal cranes intended for use on the new quay at Haiphong apparently went into operation in January. This equipment should improve the efficiency of cargo-handling operations in the ensuing months.

* Free World arrivals included a Somali-flag ship, the first to call since July 1969.

SECRET

Table 1
Seaborne Imports, by Origin and Commodity a/

Origin	Thousand Metric Tons									
	Foodstuffs		Fertilizer		Petroleum		General and Miscellaneous		Total	
	Jan 1970	Monthly Average 1969	Jan 1970	Monthly Average 1969	Jan 1970	Monthly Average 1969	Jan 1970	Monthly Average 1969	Jan 1970	Monthly Average 1969
<i>Total</i>	46.2	63.4	22.3	13.1	38.3	31.1	55.6	49.9	162.4	157.4
Communist	46.2	62.9	15.3	5.9	38.3	31.1	54.6	45.8	154.4	145.7
USSR	40.2	26.7	11.9	5.0	38.3	27.9	23.3	17.8	113.6	77.5
Eastern Europe	--	1.1	--	0.5	--	1.4	20.1	14.7	20.1	17.7
Communist China	6.0	31.4	--	--	--	1.8	11.2	12.2	17.2	45.2
North Korea	--	Negl.	3.5	0.4	--	--	Negl.	1.2	3.5	1.6
Cuba	--	3.7	--	--	--	--	--	Negl.	--	3.7
Free World	--	9.5	7.0	7.1	--	--	1.0	4.1	8.0	11.8
Japan	--	--	7.0	7.1	--	--	--	0.8	7.0	8.0
Cambodia	--	0.4	--	--	--	--	0.3	3.2	0.3	3.6
Other Free World	--	0.1	--	--	--	--	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.2

a. Imports for 1969 exclude cargo on North Vietnamese ships.

Table 2
Seaborne Imports, by Flag and Commodity *a/*

						Thousand Metric Tons	
Jan 1970							
Flag	Foodstuffs	Fertilizer	Petroleum	General and Miscellaneous <i>b/</i>	Total	Dec 1969	Monthly Average Jan-Dec 1969
<i>Total</i>	<i>46.2</i>	<i>22.3</i>	<i>38.3</i>	<i>55.6</i>	<i>162.4</i>	<i>170.3</i>	<i>157.4 c/</i>
Communist	<u>46.2</u>	<u>15.3</u>	<u>38.3</u>	<u>46.7</u>	<u>146.4</u>	<u>140.0</u>	<u>118.7</u>
Soviet	40.2	15.3	38.3	23.3	117.1	107.4	81.2
East European	--	--	--	16.5	16.5	3.9	15.6
Chinese	3.0	--	--	6.8	9.8	22.2	18.2
Cuban	--	--	--	--	--	6.5	3.7
North Vietnamese	3.0	--	--	Negl.	3.1	--	--
Free World	--	<u>7.0</u>	--	<u>8.9</u>	<u>15.9</u>	<u>30.9</u>	<u>38.8</u>

a. Identified imports include some estimates of bulk cargoes, using methods which have proved to be highly reliable.

b. Including unidentified cargo of 30,100 metric tons.

c. Imports for 1969 exclude cargoes on North Vietnamese ships.

Table 3

Seaborne Exports, by Destination and Commodity a/

Thousand Metric Tons										
Destination	Coal		Cement		Apatite		General and Miscellaneous		Total	
	Jan 1970	Monthly Average 1969	Jan 1970	Monthly Average 1969	Jan 1970	Monthly Average 1969	Jan 1970	Monthly Average 1969	Jan 1970	Monthly Average 1969
Total	45.6	38.4	3.8	1.9	10.5	1.0	7.9	6.2	67.8	47.5
Communist	18.9	15.0	--	--	10.5	0.9	3.0	1.8	32.4	17.8
USSR	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4
Eastern Europe	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.2	0.8	2.2	0.8
Communist China	18.9	14.6	--	--	--	--	0.1	0.4	19.0	15.0
North Korea	--	--	--	--	10.5	0.9	0.4	0.3	10.9	1.2
Cuba	--	0.4	--	--	--	--	--	Negl.	--	0.4
Free World	26.6	23.4	3.8	1.9	--	0.1	5.0	4.3	35.4	29.7
Japan	21.5	22.0	--	--	--	0.1	0.5	0.1	22.0	22.2
Cambodia	--	--	--	1.6	--	--	2.0	0.8	2.0	2.4
Other Free World	5.2	1.4	3.8	0.3	--	--	2.5	3.4	11.4	5.1

a. Exports for 1969 exclude cargoes on North Vietnamese ships.

SECRET
- 9 -

SECRET

Table 4
Seaborne Exports, by Flag and Commodity a/

Thousand Metric Tons							
Flag	Jan 1970					Dec 1969	Monthly Average Jan-Dec 1969
	Coal	Cement	Apatite	General and Miscellaneous	Total		
<i>Total</i>	45.6	3.8	10.5	7.9	67.8	78.3	47.5 <u>b/</u>
Communist	<u>45.6</u>	<u>3.8</u>	<u>10.5</u>	<u>5.9</u>	<u>65.8</u>	<u>72.9</u>	<u>40.6</u>
Soviet	21.5	--	10.5	0.7	32.7	51.7	20.5
East European	--	--	--	--	--	16.3	4.7
Chinese	18.9	--	--	2.2	21.1	4.9	14.9
Cuban	5.1	--	--	--	5.1	--	0.5
North Vietnamese	--	3.8	--	3.1	6.8	--	--
Free World	--	--	--	<u>2.0</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>5.4</u>	<u>6.9</u>

a. Exports include some estimates of bulk cargoes, using methods which have proved to be highly reliable.

b. Exports for 1969 exclude cargoes on North Vietnamese ships.

Table 5
Ship Arrivals a/

Flag	Jan 1970		Dec 1969		Monthly Average Jan-Dec 1969	
	Arrivals	Percent	Arrivals	Percent	Arrivals	Percent
<i>Total</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>38.1</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Dry cargo	41	87.2	36	83.7	32.2	84.5
Tanker	6	12.8	7	16.3	5.8	15.2
Communist	<u>43</u>	<u>91.5</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>83.7</u>	<u>29.8</u>	<u>78.2</u>
Soviet	27	57.4	27	62.8	20.1	52.8
East European	5	10.6	1	2.3	3.2	8.4
Albanian	--	--	--	--	0.1	0.3
Bulgarian	2	4.3	--	--	0.5	1.3
East German	--	--	--	--	0.7	1.8
Polish	3	6.4	1	2.3	1.9	5.0
Chinese	5	10.6	7	16.3	6.2	16.3
Cuban	1	2.1	1	2.3	0.4	1.0
North Vietnamese	5	10.6	--	--	--	--
Free World	<u>4</u>	<u>8.5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>16.3</u>	<u>8.2</u>	<u>21.5</u>
British	2	4.3	7	16.3	6.2	16.3
Cypriot	--	--	--	--	0.8	2.1
Japanese	--	--	--	--	0.2	0.5
Singaporean	--	--	--	--	0.3	0.8
Somalian	1	2.1	--	--	0.7	1.8
Other	1 <u>b/</u>	2.1	--	--	0.1 <u>b/</u>	0.3

a. Arrivals for 1969 exclude North Vietnamese ships.

b. Maltese.

Table 6
Average Number of Foreign Dry Cargo Ships
in Haiphong per Day

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Ships</u>			
	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
January	7	21	24	14
February	10	23	21	
March	16	23	21	
April	16	19	21	
May	18	16	20	
June	25	23	18	
July	22	30	21	
August	17	28	17	
September	13	34	17	
October	13	33	15	
November	12	29	11	
December	13	27	13	
<i>Average for year</i>	15	25	18	

- 12 -
SECRET

SECRET

Table 7
Average Layover Times for Foreign Dry Cargo Ships
Departing Haiphong a/

Month	Number of Days			
	1967	1968	1969	1970
January	12	15	25	13
February	10	27	21	
March	13	28	17	
April	12	19	19	
May	17	14	20	
June	22	17	21	
July	24	25	21	
August	33	31	22	
September	19	41	21	
October	19	35	19	
November	18	30	16	
December	15	29	14	
Average for year	18	26	20	

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- 13 -

SECRET

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